

plan following the closing of three major Navy facilities in the 1990's—naval hospital, naval station, and naval shipyard. With the loss of the Navy, thousands of jobs were lost. Beginning in March 1988, and the end of the cold war, 400,000 jobs in aerospace were lost in Los Angeles County alone. With 450,000 residents, Long Beach is the second largest city in the county.

EDA has also provided \$3 million to help establish the California State University, Long Beach Research Park on land formerly belonging to the Long Beach Naval Station. So the newer technologies will grow in place of the old thanks to the EDA which agreed with the community's vision.

EDA has helped provide funding to perform feasibility studies of bridges as part of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Project. That is the major intermodal in the Nation.

The Economic Development Administration is a proven vehicle to bring together Federal and local government, small and large business, so that the end result is a better community which provides opportunities for residents and visitors alike. EDA means a better future.

CONGRATULATING ALLISON  
BECKWITH

**HON. JENNIFER DUNN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Allison Beckwith for her winning entry in the National Business Plan Competition. Ms. Beckwith, who hails from Redmond, Washington, is one of five young women whose business plan was selected by women business owners to receive this distinguished award. She will be recognized at the Women's Economic Summit during the Young Entrepreneur Awards luncheon on Thursday, October 15.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of Ms. Beckwith and her achievement. In her business plan, Ms. Beckwith envisions an online "catazine" (catalog and magazine combined) venture through which teenagers can buy merchandise and read articles written by other teenagers. This entrepreneurial spirit is one of the reasons why women are starting businesses at twice the rate of men and are a powerful and growing economic force in the global marketplace.

I also applaud Independent Means, Inc., sponsor of the National Business Plan Competition, for giving young teenage women the opportunity to turn their dreams of starting a business into reality. By engaging girls in entrepreneurship with female role models and placing an emphasis on the importance of economic self-sufficiency, Independent Means helps thousands of young girls become independent women.

When girls are given the tools and information they need to make informed decisions, they will act responsibly. I believe that we must continue to invest in teaching and inspiring young women in America—for they are our future.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District in Washington State, I again congratulate Ms. Beckwith for her outstanding accomplish-

ment and wish her much success in her future pursuits.

SIKH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST  
CALLS PUNJAB A POLICE STATE  
(PEOPLE'S COMMISSION MUST  
BE SUPPORTED)

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken out over the years about the ongoing human-rights violations by the Indian government in Punjab. I have recently come into possession of a very interesting document on that subject. Thanks to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, I have seen a letter written by Professor Jagmohan Singh, General Secretary of the Akali Dal (Amritsar), in which he declares that Punjab is still a police state, even under the Akali-BJP government of Chief Minister Badal.

"Human rights abuse in Punjab in the last decade and a half has shattered the lives of a number of individuals and their families," Professor Singh wrote. "Effectively, Punjab has been administered as a police state," he added. "No fresh legal or political initiative has been taken to reinforce rule of law and protect the most endangered primary fundamental right—the right to life."

Jagmohan Singh writes that five false cases are still pending against longtime Sikh activist Simranjit Singh Mann, a political opponent of the Badal government. His is just one prominent case among many. Tens of thousands of Sikhs remain in Indian jails; with no charges pending against them. Alarming, some of them have been rotting in jail since 1984! Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira, who exposed the Indian government's brutal policy of mass cremations of Sikhs, was killed in custody by the police, according to a police witness. Jaspal Singh Dhillon, another prominent human-rights activist, was picked up by the police on a false charge as recently as July of this year. And if that wasn't enough, the police even picked up his attorney! Mr. Speaker, the judicial system in Punjab is a joke, no one is given an ounce of justice.

Jagmohan Singh points out that no action has been taken to punish the police who have committed these atrocities against the Sikhs. In fact, the Badal government even boasts that it has taken no action against these police officers. More than 150 atrocities have been documented since the Akali government took power in Punjab in February of 1997.

Professor Singh cites 15 separate ways in which human rights are violated in Punjab. Mr. Speaker, allow me to list just a few of these horrible and inhumane acts that police commit upon the innocent people of Punjab. Professor Singh has included, among other despicable acts, the promotion of police officers based upon the number of Sikh youth they have killed; bounties offered for the murder of particular individual Sikhs; forces occupation of public places, including houses of worship, like the Golden Temple in Amritsar; extrajudicial killings of political workers, relatives of political leaders and activists; and the planting of illegal weapons and explosives on unsuspecting

people who are then labeled as "militants" or "terrorists."

Jagmohan Singh strongly defends the work of the People's Commission in exposing the tyranny of the Punjab police, and supports its continuation. The Commission has come under vigorous attack from the Punjab government, which is desperately trying to interfere in its mission and close it down. The Commission issued 90 citations against police officers and has taken on 3,000 more cases. Now the government has gone to court to stop the People's Commission. I agree with Professor Singh that the Commission's work must continue so that police atrocities can be exposed, and will cease to be covered up by India's political sponsors.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Jagmohan Singh's letter is a chilling description of the ongoing police state in Punjab. I am placing it into the RECORD, and I recommend to my colleagues that they read it carefully.

JAGMOHAN SINGH, GENERAL SECRETARY,  
SHIROMANI AKALI DAL  
(AMRITSAR),

*Rahon Road, Ludhiana, September 24, 1998.*

Rtd. Justice V. K. KHANNA,

*Chairperson, Panjab State Human Rights Commission, Kendriya Sadan, Sector 9A, Chandigarh.*

DEAR JUSTICE KHANNA: Is Panjab still a police state?

Human rights abuse in Panjab in the last decade and a half has shattered the lives of a number of individuals and their families. Effectively, Panjab has been administered as a police state. The situation did not change even after the election of Beant Singh's Congress government in 1992 and diminution of alleged extremist activities. The people of Panjab expected that the political and human rights environment would change with the election of the Akali Dal Badal-BJP government in February 1997.

Panjab, however, continues to be a police state. The Panjabis now realize that all along they were chasing a mirage. For the last 18 months, the Badal-BJP government has taken no steps to undo the wrongs perpetuated during the last decade. No fresh legal or political initiative has been taken to reinforce rule of law and protect the most endangered primary fundamental right—the right to life.

Let us examine the scenario in present day Panjab:

1. Release of Detenues: No political detainee, including those who have been languishing for more than 8-10 years without trial or protracted trial, has been released from the jails of Panjab. Their cases have not been reviewed. No attempt has been made to bring back detainees from Panjab languishing in the jails of Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. There are five false cases still pending against party president, Simranjit Singh Mann.

2. Trial of Police Officers: No attempt has been made to expedite the trial of police and other security force personnel against whom cases of human rights abuse are pending in various courts, including cases in the Panjab and Haryana Court and the Supreme Court. Actually, the prosecution has been delayed under one pretext or the other.

3. Speedy Trial of the Guilty: To ensure speedy trial, it was necessary to constitute a Tribunal with instructions to conduct day to day proceedings to try the guilty police officers, bureaucrats and politicians responsible for executing and directing crimes against humanity. Despite the poll promise to do so, the present government has failed to take any initiative in this direction.

4. Suspension or Dismissal of Police Officers: No police officer or bureaucrat, at various levels in the hierarchy, responsible for formulating policies and strategies for harassment, torture, illegal detention and extrajudicial murder of Sikh youth, in total violation of rule of law, has been suspended or dismissed by the state government. No enquiry has been constituted to expose and identify the conspiracy of the police, the high-ranking bureaucrats and the politicians in Delhi. No step has been taken in the case of the involuntary disappearance of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra. The report of the police inquiry in the extrajudicial murder of former Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Bhai Gurdev Singh Kaunke has not been released. Human rights and political activists have documented the involuntary disappearance of Jathedar Kaunke at the hands of the then Senior Superintendent of Police of Jagraon police district and his officers in January 1993. No attempt has been made to order enquiries about gross abuses in all districts of Punjab to unearth cases as have been detected in the "cremation of unclaimed bodies case" in Amritsar district.

5. Unlawful Promotion of Police Officers: A large number of police officers, who had been promoted on the basis of the number of Sikh youth killed by them, have not been reverted to their original positions or ranks. To rub salt on our wounds, police officers like SSP Iqbal Singh, who has a consistent track record of lawlessness and maltreatment has been recommended for the President's medal for his 'meritorious' service. We cannot forget that it was SSP Iqbal Singh, then posted in Tarn Taran, who sent a police team which tortured and extrajudicially murdered Kashmir Singh of village Pandori Rukman of district Hoshiarpur on March 14-15, 1997. Kashmir Singh was propaganda secretary of the Youth Wing of our party. Many such officers have been awarded medals for their genocidal role. On the other hand, responsible police officers, who have refused to participate in the genocide of the Sikhs, are still not on active duty.

6. "Head Count" of the Sikhs and Rewards From the State Exchequer: Hundreds of Sikhs have been killed and hundreds of policemen have become rich with the 'head prizes'. With this unlawful enrichment, police personnel have acquired movable and immovable properties. The Punjab State Human Rights Commission should carry out a detailed enquiry into the Comptroller and Auditor General's Report of the last 15 years and prepare a report on the 'head prizes'. It will also be befitting to find out the issuance of any more secret orders or circulars, as the one issued by the then Director General of Police, K.P.S. Gill on 30 August 1989 to the senior police officers ordering the liquidation of 53 alleged militants with price money against each name.

7. Impoundment of Illegal Properties of Police Officers: A survey of all the illegal properties acquired by police personnel is a prerequisite for peace in Punjab. This research will unearth properties not only bought but also those which were "just taken over". Such properties and moneys should be deposited with the state exchequer. Ill-gotten wealth has fuelled disrespect for human rights and further desensitized the police.

8. Police Districts and "Peace" in Punjab: Police districts (Khanna, Jagraon, Majitha, Tarn Taran, Batala and Barnala) were created on the ground that the law and order situation require a small command area. However, although the senior police authorities and the Badal-BJP government claim that "peace has descended on Punjab", the police districts have not been dismantled. De facto, the police administration has become

so top heavy that senior police officers, including Senior Superintendents of Police of various districts and the Director General of Police, Mr. P.C. Dogra ingratiate a pliable section of the media in Punjab, without fear of their political masters in Punjab and in active connivance with their political masters in Delhi, to perpetuate the hegemony of the police in Punjab. The state government or the Punjab State Human Rights Commission has failed to monitor the contradictory claims of the Punjab police chief. The State Commission should procure data regarding the cost of the exchequer of these police districts and recommend the winding of the same.

9. Occupation of Public Places by Police Administration: A large number of public places, including parks, private houses, in villages and cities, have been forcibly occupied and converted into police stations, police posts and torture centers. In spite of public protests, the Badal-BJP government has failed to direct the police authorities to vacate these places.

10. Extrajudicial Acts of the Police: In the last 18 months, a number of political workers, relatives of political leaders and activists, (Kashmir Singh of Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), Vijayinder Singh— a nephew of party leader Simranjit Singh Mann, Avtar Singh Karimpuri, General Secretary of Bahujan Samaj Party), human rights activists (Jaspal Singh Dhillon) witnesses in human rights abuse cases (Rajiv Randhawa, Kirpal Singh) and a multitude of alleged militants, have been tortured, harassed, detained or extrajudicially killed by the police. Families of slain militants continue to face the vengeance of the police. Even in cases not related to militants, there has been a spurt in deaths in police custody. No attempt has been made by the Badal government to dignify the police and to train them to respect human rights.

11. "Confiscation" of Explosives: The Director General of Police has "confiscated" tons of explosive material. Apart from the news-story that such material was recovered from "such and such militant" or "former militant", the DGP has failed to inform the people of Punjab about the ineffectiveness of the police and other security agencies when the material was brought inside Punjab (that is, if we believe the police version to be correct). Is it inertia or is it a well planned conspiracy to allow the monster to grow and then make a big fuss to catch it?

We strongly suspect that the movement of arms, ammunition and explosives in Punjab is a new strategy of the pervert masterminds of the Punjab police-Home Ministry nexus. We cannot forget that journalist Dhiren Bhagat of the Indian Post was killed by Indian security agencies, in 1993, soon after he had documented the illegal and unlawful movement of arms and ammunition by the Indian state through its secret services.

We are closely monitoring the progress made by the police in recovering the huge arsenal of arms and ammunition ostensibly recovered from militants and now missing from police records and stores. According to a communication from the Additional Director General of Police (Crime), Mr. Jarnail Singh Chahal (as mentioned in internal memos to all district SSPs in Punjab in September 1997) as many as 10,451 weapons comprising AK47s, AK57s, rifles, revolvers, pistols, rocket launchers, rockets are missing. There is no iota of doubt that they have either been distributed as bounties to the pet vigilantes of the Punjab police or to the Congress leaders of Punjab. To make matters worse, a large number of such arms have been given to untrained "special police officers" to provide security cover to a large number of people for whom such security is not a requirement but a status symbol.

The Punjab State Human Rights Commission must study the records of the Firearm Bureau at Phillaur and the police stores (Malkhanas) of police stations in the Punjab.

We request the Punjab State Human Rights Commission to prepare a compilation of the total amount of explosives seized by the Punjab police in the last one year and inform the people about the disposal of the same, lest it be used to implicate more innocent youth of Punjab.

12. Extension of Services of Punjab Police Chief. We strongly urge the Commission to look into the reasons cited by the state government while granting extension to the Director General of Police, Mr. Puran Chand Dogra, six months ago. The Commission must also look into the reasons for the state government to recommend the case of DGP Mr. Dogra (bypassing the rules laid down by the Central Administrative Tribunal) for another extension of six months. Media reports say that the government has sought the extension "to combat terrorism in Punjab". This investigation alone by the State Human Rights Commission will be enough to know whether "Punjab is still a police state" and whether "peace has descended on Punjab".

13. Human Rights Defenders in Danger: Defending human rights is a dangerous activity in all banana republics or near-banana republics. Punjab has been governed as such. It is not for the first time; even during his earlier tenure as chief minister, Mr. Parkash Singh Badal resorted to extrajudicial methods to crush opposition in the state. Today, either under pressure or in complicity with the police, human rights defenders are behind bars. Those still working continue to face the wrath of the state in one form or the other.

14. Why Forgive and Forget? Human rights include civil and political rights. Therefore politics and human rights are related to each other. Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, 18 months ago, had promised to the people of Punjab to investigate the causes and factors; and identify the individuals and the political parties responsible for the tragedies in Punjab and to pinpoint the administrative and political accountability for the same. Nothing has been done so far. The present signature tune is "Forgive and Forget". This was the tune of the Congress and the BJP against which the traditional Akali leadership instigated hundreds upon thousands of Sikh youth to revolt! Punjab and its people have forgiven enough and forgotten a lot. Today is the time to prosecute each one of the alleged perpetrators—executive, police and political—for crimes against humanity.

15. The Only Incomplete Positive Step: The only positive step take by the present government is the formation of the Punjab State Human Rights Commission. Unfortunately no changes have been made in the powers and authority of the commission. The commission can investigate only those cases that fall within the last one year. So, the commission, according to the current mandate, cannot redress the fears, grievances and genuine complaints of families of victims of the last decade and a half.

FROM POLICE STATE TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSION . . .

In this frightening police state scenario, what should the people do? The people have come together and formed a People's Commission that will listen to their woes and deliberate upon the merits of each case of violation of human rights in the Punjab, irrespective of the time lag. The Commission has been formed at the initiative of dedicated human rights and political activists under the aegis of the "Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab." This Commission comprises of Retd. Chief

Justice D. S. Tewatia, Retd. Justice H. Suresh and Retd. Justice Jaspal Singh. After the first session of the commission at Chandigarh on 8-9-10 August 1998, the affected families see a glimmer of hope. The People's Commission is the people's response to the non-fulfillment of election promises by the present government at the state level and the incapability of the ruling coalition at the Centre to rectify the wrongs of yesteryears. If people can form governments surely they can form commissions as well; can they not?

Now, the Congress, the BJP and the Police (the trinity responsible for gross human rights abuse in the Panjab through acts of omission and commission) are pressurizing the Badal government to wind up the People's Commission, calling it "illegal" and "harbinger of disturbance" and other names.

We appeal to the Panjab State Human Rights Commission, to advise the state government, not to stoke the fires that are lying buried. Though we contest the "quality of peace" that has "descended on the Panjab", any attempt by the state "not to let people cry for their beloveds" will boomerang. The endorsement of the Panjab State Human Rights Commission of the work of the People's Commission will go a long way to enhance respect for human rights and to smother the politically motivated propaganda against this humble attempt by the people to assuage the hurt of victims and their families. This certainly is part of the moral mandate of any human rights body, more so of a state-sponsored Human Rights Commission.

Moreover the labour of the People's Commission will not go in vain. The report of the People's Commission will not meet the same fate of hundreds of Commissions set up by the Indian state under the Commissions of Enquiry Act. It will perhaps be useful for the Human Rights Commission to conduct a statistical analysis of the total number of Commissions of enquiry instituted by the state and those whose recommendations have been accepted.

The focus of the work of the People's Commission is also not at loggerheads with the working of the judiciary as is being propagated by the wanton statements of the Panjab Advocate General, Congress and BJP leaders and the Panjab police chief. Their consternation is more about the uncovering of truth about their shameful deeds. Those opposing the People's Commission will do well to remember that before the official Srikrishna Commission was setup to pinpoint the responsibility for the riots in Bombay in 1992-93, a People's Commission was set up by an independent body, The Indian Peoples Human Rights Commission. Justice S.M. Daud and Justice H. Suresh made an extensive enquiry and submitted a report on the role of the government and the police in the rioting in Bombay. The report was first published in August 1993. The evidence collected by that People's Commission made the task of witnesses much easier when they deposed before the official Srikrishna Commission.

It may also be noted that the panel of judges on the Indian People's Human Rights Tribunal have conducted enquiries into the firing in Arwal in Bihar in 1987, the burning of 646 huts of tribals in Vishakapatnam district by the Andhra Pradesh government in 1988, the role of the Provincial Armed Constabulary in the riots in Meerut in 1988, the role of the Karnataka government in anti-Tamil riots and the role of the Tamil Nadu government in anti-Kannadiga riots in 1992.

At the international level, the journey for trial of guilty officers, bureaucrats and political leaders responsible for crimes against humanity, which started with the Nurem-

berg trials has fructified this year in the formation of an International Criminal Court.

The Panjab State Human Rights Commission and the National Human Rights Commission will do well to train the Indian police, paramilitary and military forces to recognize the harsh reality that sooner or later nemesis will catch up. Transparency and not secrecy is the watchword. "Reasons of state", "demoralization of the police forces" and "amendments to the Criminal Procedure code to make it difficult to prosecute police officers", "orders of superiors", "ignorance of law, especially international and humanitarian law" will not be adequate to protect either the protagonists or the perpetrators of human rights abuse.

We are concerned that no serious effort has been made by the government of Panjab or the Commission to popularize the commission and its work among the people of Panjab. No public sitting of the commission has taken place since its formation. The people of Panjab are eager to know the number of cases in which suo moto action has been taken by the Commission. We look forward to the first annual report of the Panjab State Human Rights Commission and we anxiously wait to see how it nails down the state government and the police machinery. Should the commission require details on the above points, we shall gladly furnish them.

We appeal to you and through you also to the overindulgent Advocate General of Panjab, Mr. Gurdarshan Singh Grewal, to advise the present State government in Panjab whether it wants to join the sanguineous trinity of the Police-Congress-BJP or to find a respectable place in contemporary history, particularly in a year, when the international community, in spite of India's abstention, has formed the International Criminal Court to try individual cases of gross human rights abuse.

(Prof.) JAGMOHAN SINGH,  
General Secretary.

#### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CONGRESSMAN DELLUMS

#### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, RON DELLUMS, a great member of the House of Representatives, and a great member of the Congressional Black Caucus retired last February. On several occasions I spoke enthusiastically of my great admiration for Congressman DELLUMS; however, I was absent on the day tributes to my esteemed colleague were made on the floor of the House. Today, for the RECORD, I would like to summarize my tribute to a friend, a mentor and a great role model.

RON DELLUMS is a man defined by magnificent contradictions. He is the activist who took a great risk when he joined the establishment; but he won the bet that he could never be corrupted. He is the peacemaker who rose to the position of Chairman of the powerful war-making Armed Services Committee.

RON DELLUMS was and is a steady keeper of a broad and integrated vision of this complex world. He is a tribune broadcasting a consistent, universal message. Throughout his long career in the Congress he remained loyal to certain fundamental principles advocating peace with justice—and his order of priorities never became confused. Despite his world

view, his philosophical and intellectual loftiness and his intensity concerning administrative excellence, RON remained first and foremost a descendant of Frederic Douglass, first and foremost an African American with an abiding dedication to his people.

When the oppressed Blacks three thousand miles away in South Africa needed a champion, RON DELLUMS was there with his parliamentary skills managing a difficult controversial resolution through the House. The effort was greatly enhanced by this oratorical eloquence and the fact that he had already accepted jail and arrest to promote his position. In a historic moment on the floor of the House, which has not yet been accorded its appropriate recognition, the Dellums South African sanctions resolution passed and set in motion a process which doomed the evil of apartheid. Nelson Mandela was later set free and a new South Africa nation was born.

Although he was the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee in 1993 when the call came for direct action to return democracy to Haiti, RON DELLUMS was again on the front lines accepting arrest and jail to promote a policy of sanctions against an oppressive regime.

To promote justice and a better utilization of our national resources throughout the world RON led the drive to reallocate the military budget. He continued to support the Congressional Black Caucus alternative Caring Majority Budget. His concerns for full employment and job training as well as a more generous and sustained investment in education never waiver while he executed his duties as Armed Services Committee Chairman.

Today, the portrait of RONALD V. DELLUMS in the National Security Committee Hearing Room speaks symbolic volumes about the magnificent contradictions of this Renaissance Man. This great room of the warriors, with forbidding portraits all around, many with a background including some weapon of destruction, is transformed by the Dellums portrait which makes a complete and almost perfect statement. From this powerful portrait the sunshine of peace and hope triumphantly invades the war room. This masterpiece leaves the bright shining signature and spirit of a conquering hero: RONALD V. DELLUMS.

#### HONORING THE PINK RIBBONS PROJECT

#### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous contribution that the Pink Ribbons Project is making in the battle against breast cancer.

Every October, we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month to highlight the efforts by medical providers, community organizations, and businesses to ensure all women have access to the breast cancer screening and treatment they need. It is particularly gratifying to acknowledge the efforts of the Pink Ribbons Project, Dancers in Motion for Breast Cancer, whose generosity is helping to achieve this goal and save lives.

The Pink Ribbons Project was conceived and created in New York City in May 1995 by